

Attachment 1: Working with States

As the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) works to implement the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA), we are working with partners throughout the healthcare system to ensure a successful launch of the new Medicare prescription drug benefit. States are an important partner in the process of providing the new Medicare prescription drug benefit to many of the most vulnerable populations served by Medicare. This document describes the CMS efforts to date with the states and state organizations to establish an open dialogue between CMS and the states and to provide state with MMA information and materials.

State Issues Workgroup

In August 2004, CMS convened the first meeting of the State Issues Workgroup. The group consists of representatives from the states (state Medicaid directors), SSA, and CMS. The primary purposes of the group are to identify potential solutions for outstanding policy issues that impact the states; provide recommendations for data exchanges & systems processes; and, develop a protocol for working with SSA on training and outreach associated with the low-income subsidy.

Several subcommittees were established to provide additional information and detailed recommendations.

- SSA Interaction—Work with SSA to develop application process, training, education, and outreach for dually-eligible beneficiaries.
- Identification—Identify low-income subsidy eligibles & their level of subsidy.
- Enrollment in Part D—Auto-assign full duals who do not make an election of a Part D plan.
- Transition-Coordination of Benefits-Continuity of Care—Help duals move from Medicaid to Medicare, assure coordination.
- Phasedown State Contribution—Calculate the phasedown state contribution and ensure its accuracy. (This subcommittee meets on an ad hoc basis.)

To date, the group has held four meetings, one conference call, and a series of subcommittee meetings.

❖ **For more information, contact:** Lisa Wilson at 410-786-3499 or Lisa.Wilson@cms.hhs.gov.

SPAP Workgroup

On February 11, 2005, CMS convened the first meeting of the State Pharmacy Assistance Program (SPAP) Workgroup. This workgroup is comprised of representatives from CMS and States and serve the purpose of exchanging and developing views, information, and guidance to SPAPs to ensure the successful implementation of the Part D Medicare prescription drug program established pursuant to the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-173; December 8, 2003).

Three subgroups were established to identify issues, provide additional information, propose potential solutions and provide detailed recommendations.

- Eligibility and Enrollment
- Outreach and Education
- Coordination of Benefits, Wrap Around and PDP Interface

To date, the group has held four meetings, three conference calls, and a face-to-face SPAP Workgroup meeting at the Phoenix Park Hotel in Washington, D.C.

- ❖ **For more information, contact:** Cora Tracy at 410-786-3289 or Maria.Tracy@cms.hhs.gov.

Talking with States

CMS has engaged the states in a series of meetings, conference calls, and workshops to discuss the implementation of MMA. These interactions not only provide state partners with information about the policies and operations at CMS, but they also give states the opportunity to ask questions of the CMS experts.

- All-state monthly conference calls: These calls are scheduled for the first Monday of every month (May 2, 2005; June 6, 2005; July 11, 2005; August 1, 2005; September 12, 2005; October 3, 2005; November 7, 2005; December 5, 2005) from 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST. Each month a different topic is discussed. To date, three calls have taken place. The February call topic was low-income subsidy eligibility and enrollment. The March call reviewed enrollment in the low-income subsidy formulary review process, transitioning the dual eligibles, and appeals. The April call outlined the CMS outreach and education strategy.

- ❖ **State personnel can join these calls as follows:** call 1-800-857-7453, Password: MMA.

- State Partners Conference: April 26-27, 2005, in Chicago, IL. The State Partners Conference jointly presented by the National Governor's Association and CMS is an opportunity for partners from across state government to learn about MMA implementation and work with CMS on implementation issues.
- Regional Meetings and Conference Calls: The CMS regional offices work closely with states on a daily basis to implement MMA. In addition to the routine technical assistance and guidance, CMS' regional offices have coordinated conference calls and meetings for the state Medicaid agencies in their regions. These meetings and conference calls provide a smaller forum for states to ask questions and talk to CMS experts. They also provide the opportunity for states to network and exchange ideas and information on both a formal and informal basis.

- ❖ **The CMS Regional Office Phone Numbers are the following:**

Region I – Boston	617-565-1188
Region II – New York	212-264-4488
Region III – Philadelphia	215-861-4140
Region IV – Atlanta	404-562-7150
Region V – Chicago	312-886-6432
Region VI – Dallas	214-767-6427

Region VII – Kansas City	816-426-5233
Region VIII – Denver	303-844-2111
Region IX – San Francisco	415-744-3501
Region X – Seattle	206-615-2306

- National Governor’s Association (NGA) Briefings: CMS has worked closely with the National Governor’s Association to provide information to the state’s governors and their staff. In January, NGA hosted a briefing where CMS experts reviewed the final regulations implementing MMA. CMS has also participated in several NGA webcasts.
 - ❖ **The NGA website is** <http://www.nga.org/>.
- National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) and Council of State Governments (CSG): In January, CMS also participated in a briefing to review the final regulations implementing MMA. NGA hosted a briefing where CMS experts reviewed the final regulations implementing MMA. CMS has also participated in several NGA webcasts.
 - ❖ **The NCSL website is** <http://www.ncsl.org/>.
- American Public Human Services Association (APHSA): CMS staff have presented alongside SSA staff at several conferences sponsored by the National Association of State Medicaid Directors (NASMD) and the APHSA.
 - ❖ **The APHSA website is** <http://www.aphsa.org/home/news.asp>.
- Other conferences, workshops, and meetings: CMS has also participated in a variety of forums sponsored by other stakeholders in the health care field. CMS experts have been available through the Kaiser Family Foundation’s webcasts, the Reutter’s University Center for State Health Policy conference on state implementation of Part D, the National Association of State Human Services Finance Officers’ annual conference, the American Association of Food Stamp Directors (AAFSD) annual conference, National Health Policy Forum meetings, as well as meetings and workshops with a variety of other organizations.

Resources for States

To help states prepare for the new Medicare Part D drug benefit, CMS provides materials for use by the states.

- MMA States Listserv: In January 2005, CMS established the MMA_States listserv to give states information on MMA and to update states on any issues or changes pertaining to the MMA.
 - ❖ **To join this listserv**: go to <http://www.cms.hhs.gov>, then scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on the mailing list tab located on the left of the screen, enter the appropriate information and then choose the appropriate list serve MMA_States.
- MMA State Information Webpage: In mid-April, CMS launched the MMA State Information webpage. This webpage provides State specific information about implementing the Medicare Modernization Act. These resources will be updated as new information becomes available. The following materials are some of the resources included on the webpage:
 - ❖ *Model language for SPAPs and Medicaid agencies*: CMS has prepared language that states can use to mail to their own

constituencies so that both CMS and states are delivering similar messages to the beneficiaries.

- ❖ *Fact Sheets for Medicaid agencies, Territories and SPAPs*: These documents outline the requirements for state Medicaid agencies and SPAPs detailed in the final rule.
- ❖ *MMA Guide for State Legislatures*: This guide is for state legislatures to refer to as they implement MMA in their state.
- ❖ *State MMA Upcoming Events*: Conference calls, meetings and other important dates are detailed on the webpage.
- ❖ **The MMA State Information Webpage is at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medicarereform/states/>.**
- State Captains: Each regional office has appointed state captains to serve as a centralized point of contact for states in the CMS outreach and education campaign.
 - ❖ **For a list of the regional state captains, logon to <http://cmsnet.cms.hhs.gov/projects/mmacomm/co/>.**
- Beneficiary Information: CMS plans to provide a variety of documents, such as fact sheets, in beneficiary-friendly format for all partners to use.
 - ❖ **The website is found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/>.**
- Outreach and Education Toolkit: CMS has an outreach and education toolkit for all CMS partners available on the CMS partner's website. The toolkit is designed to equip partners with the materials needed to provide clear, accurate information and assistance to their clients on the Medicare prescription drug coverage. The toolkit is developed with basic, straightforward information that can be easily conveyed to beneficiaries.
 - ❖ **The CMS partner's website is found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/partnerships>.**